

Health Services Research in Oncology and Cancer Care

Information sheet

Online application submission for research funding

Important:

- The call for research proposals within the Health Services Research and Cancer Care Programme occurs independently of the semi-annual calls for grant applications from the Swiss Cancer League (SCL) and the Swiss Cancer Research foundation (SCR).
- Principal applicants will receive funding for a **maximum of one ongoing project** within the Health Services Research (HSR) and Cancer Care Programme.
- Only **one project** per principal applicant may be submitted **per round**.
- The HSR and Cancer Care Programme supports the principle of **open access** of scientific publications.

General Information:

The Grant Application Portal (GAP) is a web platform designed for the online interaction between applicants, reviewers and the Scientific Office of the aforementioned organizations. **Only those grant requests submitted via this platform will be considered for funding.**

1 Deadlines

The programme is to span over a period of at least five years (2016-2020). Funds of a total of **1 million Swiss francs** will be awarded once a year. The application process has two phases. Phase one comprises of a pre-proposal due on **15 September**. After evaluation by a scientific committee of health services research experts, phase two will begin and the shortlisted principal investigators will be invited to submit a detailed research proposal on or before **15 January**. An initial written response from the adjudicating committee can generally be expected end of April. **Provisional information will not be given over the telephone.**

2 Conditions on applying:

- Grant applicants of Swiss nationality or non-Swiss applicants currently employed by a Swiss university, research institution, hospital, research and consulting agency, or health service provider. The programme only supports **non-commercial** projects.
- Principal applicants must show that they are in a position to carry out a research project on their own responsibility and/or with direction of colleagues and employees involved in it.
- The **principal applicant must be the one who creates and completes the application.**
- The application must be written in **English** and formulated briefly and precisely.
- The application must be **cancer related**.
- Attachments such as the research plan, relevance of the project, CVs, publication lists, etc. are to be uploaded to the field(s) provided.
- A signed hardcopy of the online generated application must be mailed (to the address below) and **postmarked with the date on or before the deadline**.
- **Re-applying:** Research applications that have been rejected by the SCR can be revised by the applicants and **re-submitted only once**. Based on the reviewers'

comments from the previous application, applicants may consider providing a **point to point response**.

3 Project duration / Maximum funding amount per project

Applications for funding must be limited to projects lasting no longer than four years. A single project may be supported with at most CHF 75 000.- (small research projects) or CHF 250 000.- (research grants). For research grants, the yearly budget should not exceed CHF 125 000.-. Within the full proposal the financial requirement for each year must be shown separately and in detail (see also sections 4 and 5).

4 Salaries

The applicable salary categories will be determined using the rules established by the Swiss National Science Foundation. A separate statement of salary costs must be kept. **The principal applicant is not allowed to apply for his salary.** Exceptions are possible and need to be discussed with the Scientific Office.

5 Consumables and miscellaneous expenses

Applications for funding for collateral materials must be accompanied by valid offers. Consumables and miscellaneous expenses (excluded are travel costs and conferences) are usually granted for CHF 25 000.- per year per 100 % position. The application must state what resources (personnel, funding, equipment and facilities) are already available to the applicant and list other bodies from which the applicant has requested assistance.

Please note: As a non-profit organization, **SCR is neither in the position to compensate institutions for the administration of SCR funds nor is it allowed to take out overheads or bench fees** from any funding granted by SCR.

6 Review process

After the pre-proposal is submitted and recorded by the Scientific Office, it is sent to two members of the panel who are experts in the respective field of HSR. Full proposals will be evaluated in addition by two to four external reviewers.

The reviewers evaluate the proposal and give grades according to the four criteria (see also section 7). A list of all proposals ranked according to the scores is composed.

The ranking list is discussed with the panel members of the Scientific Committee, who decide which pre-proposals will be selected for the second round. The evaluation of the full proposals follows the same review process. A final ranking list is generated on the basis of the scores from the second round evaluations. This ranking list is presented to the members of the SCR Board, who decide which proposals will be funded.

The Scientific Office notifies the applicant of the decision. The reviews are made available to the applicant in an anonymous form.

7 Criteria

Research topics eligible for funding include studies on: effectiveness, efficiency and equity of cancer care interventions; comparative effectiveness research in cancer care; outcomes research in cancer care; quality of cancer care; relations between cancer patients and caregivers; access to cancer care; cancer care utilisation; health economics in cancer care; health technology assessments with a focus on cancer.

Topics that are **not considered** relevant for the purpose of this programme are: pure data generation and registration, phase I-III clinical trials, clinical studies of efficacy, research using cell or animal models.

The quality of the research grant application is evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **Relevance** to improve health services in oncology
2. **Scientific quality / adequacy** of proposed research methods
3. **Feasibility** of the project by the main applicant's group. Is the project feasible in terms of finances, human resources and organization? / **Past accomplishments** of the main applicant: career adapted rating focusing on the main applicant

These three criteria are rated. The final score is the average of the scores of the two evaluating panel members.

The final and most important criteria are the **health services relatedness** and the **cancer relevance**. Only projects with distinct cancer relevance that are clearly health services research will be funded. The expected results of the proposed project should aim at improving the quality of care and/ or quality of life for cancer patients at all levels of cancer care provision, starting from prevention and screening, over diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation, to palliative care or survivorship.

8 Open Access

The programme supports the principle of open electronic access to scientific knowledge. They require that you provide open access to research results obtained with the help of a HSR grant. You are free to choose between the Green or the Gold Road, the Hybrid Road is not supported. The programme follows the [SNF guidelines for Open Access](#).

In short, the Green Road, the self-archiving in an institutional repository: publications resulting from the HSR programme funded research should be freely accessible in a discipline-specific or institutional repository no later than six months after publication.

The Gold Road, the publication in a purely open access journal: the costs due to publication in a peer-reviewed open access journal related to a HSR grant may be claimed from the agreed project funding up to a limit of CHF 3 000.- per publication. For new applications, the costs of open access publication should be listed under expenses. For active grants, the costs of open access publication may be claimed as long as the available funds are sufficient.

9 Obligations of the recipient of funding

You undertake to use the funding allocated to you for the stated purposes, to adhere to the research plan and the budget, to carry out the research work with due diligence and in accordance with the ethical rules of science, and to make the results of your work available in a suitable form. You are required to make your research results available in open access publications (see also section 8).

Any changes to a funded project must be approved by the Scientific Office.

Therefore, recipients of funding must inform SCR Scientific Office immediately of any circumstances which result in a modification of the research plan or the budget and of any changes regarding the personnel whom they employ and pay in connection with the funded research projects.

10 Reporting and accounting

Recipients must provide an annual financial report to SCR. In addition, recipients must provide an intermediary scientific report (for projects lasting more than two years) and a final scientific report. These reports will be examined by the relevant bodies.

Requirements in terms of reporting will be listed in the acceptance letter. The Scientific Office will inform recipients whether their reports have been approved. Any funding granted but not used must be paid back to SCR on completion of the research work.

Publications arising from a HSR grant should be notified to the Scientific Office via the grant application portal as soon as the publication is accepted.

11 Patents, copyright

The recipient is obliged to inform SCR if he acquires protected rights in conjunction with work funded by us (such as patent rights to a discovery or a copyright for a publication, audio-visual media, a computer programme or other similar item).

If the results of research funded in full or in part by the HSR programme are exploited commercially, the recipient of the funding is obliged to inform SCR Scientific Office of this.

12 Misuse, failure to observe these conditions

If funding is misused or if the recipient fails to observe the conditions stated here, SCR shall be entitled to freeze bank accounts, revoke its pledge to provide funding, demand repayment of funds that have already been paid out and take any further measures that it deems necessary.

13 Miscellaneous

If your application for funding is granted, we may require further information on the project. Research funding will be forfeited if it is not claimed within one year of the stated starting date of the funding. Supplementary payments will only be authorized in exceptional cases if they are the result of unforeseeable price increases.